



ALABAMA HEAD START State Collaboration Office

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

JANUARY 2021

First Class Pre-K Grant Applications for Head Start Programs Available Jan. 19

First Class Pre-K funding applications for new Head Start First Class classrooms will be available from the Department of Early Childhood Education on January 19, 2021. To apply, please complete the application on the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education's website, children.alabama.gov. The applications for new classrooms will be due on March 12, 2021 at 5:00 pm. Renewal for existing First Class Pre-K classrooms will also open on January 19, 2021 and will be due May 7, 2021.

Head Start Location Mapping Project

The DECE-Head Start Collaboration office is developing a fact sheet and interactive, virtual map of all Early Head Start and Head Start programs in the state. Its goal is to articulate the scale of Head Start in Alabama. Once complete, these products will share a county-by-county breakdown of the number of classrooms and the number of children the Head Start community reaches in every county. We need your help. Please make sure your agency has turned in completed information to Dr. Trellis Calloway or Ms. Vickie Adams at 334-451-5660.

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Alabama Standards for Early Learning and Development is in the Mail

The recently completed Alabama Standards for Early Learning and Development offer a unified vision for responsive and developmentally appropriate, relationship-based learning experiences for all of the state's young children, birth to age 5. Two copies of the standards have been purchased for each Head Start and Early Head Start grantee by the Alabama Head Start Collaboration Office. The copies are expected to be shipped to the director of each program by the end of January 2021. Additional copies can be downloaded from the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education's website, children.alabama.gov.

Ready Rosie & Creative Curriculum Cloud Implementation

Seven Head Start Programs were provided support from the Alabama Head Start Collaboration Office to offer virtual resources to Head Start children and families. These resources will benefit a total of 126 Head Start classrooms. Creative Curriculum Cloud and Ready Rosie are scheduled to be activated in January 2021.

2021 Legislative Session Starts Next Month

The 2021 State Legislative Session is set to begin on February 2, 2021. Governor Kay Ivey will present her State of the State address that evening, and her finance team will release her budget request for all state agencies – including the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education – that day as well.

The biggest news ahead of the legislative session comes from the State Senate. State Senator Del Marsh (SD-12) has resigned from the powerful Senate President Pro Tempore position. The Senate President Pro Tem sets the daily legislative agenda in the chamber, including what bills and votes will take place. Senator Marsh has served in this position since 2010. State Senator Greg Reed (SD-5), the current Senate Majority Leader, will succeed Marsh as Pro Tem.

Lastly, the State House's social distancing rules set during the 2020 session are expected to remain in place. This includes restricting access to the public. The State House restrictions means the House and Senate galleries will remain closed, and appointments and temperature checks are required to meet with lawmakers. Staying in touch with legislators virtually via emails and phone calls will once again be critical this year in doing the people's business.

What's New in AL Early Childhood Education

Alabama Head Start Association Installs New Officers

Searcy Rushing, the Head Start and Early Head Start Director for the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, was recently named the new president of the Alabama Head Start Association. Searcy takes over the role from Samita Jeter, who served as president for the last five years.

The Alabama Head Start Association is the unified voice representing early education and advocacy for low-income children and families in Alabama. Searcy has more than 17 years of executive level leadership in public administration, strategic planning, fiscal accountability, program management, budget creation and multi-system oversight for highly complex operations. He is a strong believer in the effectiveness of teamwork and leadership, and regularly pushes the envelope for system-wide effectiveness, accountability and results.



Joining Searcy on the Association's executive team are:

Vice-President: Kelly Mumper, *Cheaha Regional Head Start*

Secretary: Patricia Stiles, *Black Belt Community Foundation Head Start*

Assistant Secretary: Tristicia Cowser, *Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education*

Assistant Treasurer: Janet Buckley, *Mobile Community Action, Inc. Head Start*

Parliamentarian: Alexis Wilson, *Community Service Programs of West Alabama (CSP), Inc.*

Historian: Samita Jeter, *Lowndes County Board of Education Head Start*

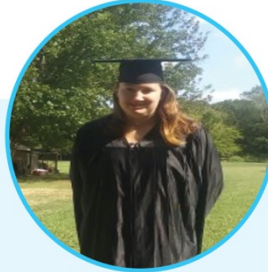


Alabama Head Start Association announces 2020 award winners



TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Tiffany Borden-Hill
Community Action Program
of North Alabama



PARENT OF THE YEAR

Jennifer Pully
Lowndes County Board of
Education Head Start



FATHER OF THE YEAR

Ivie Johnson
St. Claire County
Head Start



BEATING THE ODDS

Niterria Hall
Lowndes County Board
of Education Head Start

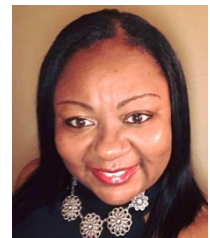


**EARNEST L. PALMER
LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY AWARD**

Samita Jeter
Lowndes County Board
of Education Head Start

The Alabama Head Start Association names first executive director

The Alabama Head Start Association recently announced that Nannette Phillips, D.B.A., has been named its first executive director. Dr. Phillips has over 25 years of Head Start experience in leadership and support staff positions. Before joining the Head Start Association, Dr. Phillips led Sustainable Transformations, LLC, a company that provides professional training and development, technical assistance, and mentoring and coaching for leaders in the early childhood community. She previously served as the President of many boards and organizations, including the Region IV Head Start Association and the Alabama Head Start Association. Dr. Phillips is also a past director of the Tuskegee-Macon Co. Head Start program in Tuskegee.



We are excited to welcome Dr. Phillips into this new role and to continue working with her to support the needs of Early Head Start and Head Start providers and families across the state.

Partnerships & Collaborations

University of Alabama in Birmingham – On November 19, the University of Alabama in Birmingham held a drive thru socialization event where families picked up a Meal of Thanks food box prepared by Publix. The meal boxes were provided to Early Head Start families from COVID-19 CARES Act Relief funds.



Community Partnership of North Alabama (CAPNA) - In December, CAPNA was recognized by First 5 Alabama with the Trailblazer Award as the agency with the most members endorsed as Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants for the year – blazing a trail for other agencies to follow.

Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (SEARP&DC) - Andalusia Head Start and Early Head Start Center has been selected as the alpha site for the Securlix biometric identity system. SEARP&DC will become the first Head Start/Early Head Start program in the nation to implement the Securlix Head Start Initiative (SHSI) system for safety and security. The SHSI system will consist of the installation of a palm vein reader and camera system. This process will enable staff, parents/guardians and students to scan IN and Out of the center and classrooms during the morning, afternoon and during transition activities. The SHSI will be operational in February 2021.

Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (SEARP&DC) has received funding and support from the Wiregrass Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. (WRC&D) for the purpose of implementing a STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Arts, and Mathematics) project. The SEARP&DC Head Start and Early Head Start centers selected were the Eufaula Head Start, the Headland Head Start and Early Head Start, and the Geneva Head Start.





UPCOMING EVENTS

FY21 Monitoring Reviews

- Focus Area 1 (FA1) and Focus Area 2 (FA2) reviews will be conducted virtually.
- There will be NO unannounced FA1 and FA2 reviews.
- Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) reviews will not be conducted.
- There will be a later start of monitoring reviews.

The Invest Early Alabama Film Festival

The Alabama School Readiness Alliance, the Alabama Association of School Boards, and the Business Council of Alabama are hosting the Invest Early Alabama Film Festival from **January 4-February 2, 2021**. Due to the generous support of the PNC Foundation, the film festival will present two documentaries – *No Small Matter* and *Starting at Zero* – that focus their lens on the importance of early childhood education in improving educational and economic outcomes in America. Registration is free. For more information about the films, trailers, and registration visit www.investearlyalabama.org.

2021 Region IV Head Start Association Virtual Annual Training Conference & Expo

Registration is now open for the 2021 Region IV Head Start Association Annual Training Conference and Expo. Pre-Conference events will be held February 17 through 19 with the General Conference February 23-26. All of the ATCE events will be digital. Each year, the ATCE attracts hundreds of early childhood development and family engagement experts, professionals, parents, and partners throughout the region and around the country. Join ACHE to learn new strategies, expand your network, discover new resources, as well as explore quality initiatives and best practices. Visit www.rivhsa.org for updates.

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